

REMARKS

The Office Action dated August 23, 2006, and the Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment dated December 7, 2006, have been received and carefully noted. The above amendments to the claims, and the following remarks, are submitted as a full and complete response thereto.

Claims 7, 9-11, and 13-20 were pending in the application, and have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 21-47 have been added to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the invention. No new matter has been added. Claims 21-47 are respectfully submitted for consideration.

Claims 7, 9-11, and 13-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as indefinite, and under 35 U.S.C. 101, as pertaining to non-statutory subject matter. Applicants respectfully submit that these rejections are moot, and respectfully submit that the newly presented claims 21-47 are both definite and directed to statutory subject matter.

An interview was conducted between the Examiner and Applicants' representative on October 5, 2006. Applicants thank the Examiner for the courtesies extended to Applicants' representative during the interview.

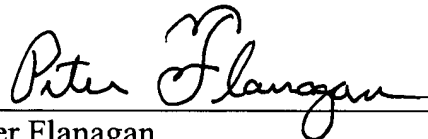
In the Interview, the Examiner agreed that the claims could be amended to overcome the formal rejections. Applicants respectfully submit that the enclosed set of claims are in keeping with the discussion for how the claims could be amended in a manner that would circumvent the formal rejections previously presented.

In view of the amendments to claims 21-47, it is respectfully submitted that the claims recite subject matter that is both definite, statutorily authorized, and neither disclosed nor suggested in the prior art. It is, therefore, respectfully requested that all of claims 21-47 be allowed, and that this application be passed to issue.

If for any reason the Examiner determines that the application is not now in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact, by telephone, Applicants' undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this application.

In the event this paper is not being timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension together with any additional fees may be charged to Counsel's Deposit Account 50-2222.

Respectfully submitted,


Peter Flanagan
Registration No. 58,178

Customer No. 32294
SQUIRE, SANDERS & DEMPSEY LLP
14TH Floor
8000 Towers Crescent Drive
Tysons Corner, Virginia 22182-2700
Telephone: 703-720-7800
Fax: 703-720-7802

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